



AF/2876 ITW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Group Art Unit: 2876

MICHAEL J. SMITH et al.

Examiner: S. Paik

Serial No.: 09/825,912

Filed: April 4, 2001

For: CENTRALIZED ELECTRONIC SAFE AND ACCOUNTING  
CONTROL SYSTEM

Attorney Docket No.: FIRE 0111 PUS

**REPLY BRIEF**

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is reply brief in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed on  
June 10, 2004.

Appellants maintain the arguments stated in the appeal brief. Appellants further  
clarify some of these arguments below.

Brooks, Jr. still fails to suggest the claimed safe including a control system that  
includes a processor programmed to control operation of the electronic lock for the safe as well  
as operate as a central system controller when connected to at least one other remote safe.  
Appellants contend that store host computer 43 is not part of a safe, and more particularly is

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